IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 12-16 and ADD new claim 17 in accordance with the following:

1. (Currently Amended)   A method of managing delivery goods when directly delivering goods from a deliverer to a location associated with a recipient comprising:

receiving, at a delivery goods management apparatus, which includes at least a data storage containing information regarding a deliverer of goods and a recipient and can also be accessed both by the deliverer and the recipient, a request to confirm reception of delivery goods entered by a deliverer when a recipient of the delivery goods from the location is absent, wherein the request includes a message to confirm as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of the goods by the deliverer to the location;

extracting recipient information from a the storage unit of the delivery goods management apparatus, where the storage unit stores the recipient information corresponding to information related to the request to confirm reception of the delivery goods; and

transmitting a notification, from the delivery goods management apparatus, to said recipient of confirmation request information based on the recipient information while the recipient is absent from the location, said method further comprising:

further storing information for a deliverer corresponding to delivery goods identification information in said storage unit and receiving the delivery goods identification information and reception approval/refusal information entered by said recipient;

extracting the deliverer information relevant to the delivery goods identification information from said storage unit; and

notifying said deliverer of the reception approval/refusal information based on the deliverer information, so that the deliverer delivers the goods to the location associated with the recipient when a result of the reception approval/refusal information indicates an approval of the delivery of the goods by the recipient.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) The method of managing delivery goods according to claim 1, further comprising:

further storing information for a client corresponding to the delivery goods information in said storage-unit, and extracting the delivery goods information and client information relevant to the delivery goods identification information from said storage-unit; and

notifying said client of the reception approval/refusal information based on the client information.

5. (Cancelled)

6. (Cancelled)

7. (Currently Amended) A delivery goods management apparatus for managing delivery of goods from a deliverer to a location associated with a recipient comprising:

a storage unit-which stores recipient information corresponding to information related to a request to confirm reception of delivery goods, which includes a message to confirm as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of the goods by the deliverer to the location, and also stores information related to a deliverer corresponding to the delivery goods information in said storage-unit;

a unit which receives information for the confirmation request entered by a deliverer when a recipient of the delivery goods is absent from the location, and also receives the delivery goods identification information and reception approval/refusal information entered by said recipient;

a unit which extracts the information entered by said recipient and also extracts, from said storage-unit, the deliverer information relevant to the delivery goods identification information; and

a unit which transmits a notification, from the delivery goods management apparatus, to said recipient of the confirmation request information based on the recipient information while the recipient is absent from the location, and also notifies said deliverer of the reception approval/refusal information based on the deliverer information, so that the deliverer delivers the goods to the location associated with the recipient when a result of the reception approval/refusal information indicates an approval of the delivery of the goods by the recipient.

8. (Cancelled)

9. (Currently Amended) A computer readable storage medium which stores a program for making a computer:

receive, at a delivery goods management apparatus, which includes at least a data storage containing information regarding a deliverer of goods and a recipient and can be accessed both by the deliverer and the recipient, a request to confirm reception of delivery goods at a location associated with a recipient entered by a deliverer when the recipient of the delivery goods is absent from the location, wherein the request includes a message to confirm as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of the goods by the deliverer to the location;

extract recipient information corresponding to information related to the request to confirm reception of the delivery goods; and

transmit a notification, from the delivery goods management apparatus, to said recipient of the confirmation request information based on the recipient information while the recipient is absent from the location, said computer readable storage medium further making the computer:

further store information for a deliverer corresponding to delivery goods identification information in said storage unit and receive the delivery goods identification information and reception approval/refusal information entered by said recipient;

extract the deliverer information relevant to the delivery goods identification information from said storage-unit; and

notify said deliverer of the reception approval/refusal information based on the deliverer information, so that the deliverer delivers the goods to the location associated with the recipient when a result of the reception approval/refusal information indicates an approval of the delivery of the goods by the recipient.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) The computer readable storage medium which stores a program according to claim 9, further making the computer:

further store information for a client corresponding to the delivery goods information in said storage-unit, and extract the delivery goods information and client information relevant to the delivery goods identification information from said storage-unit; and

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notify said client of the reception approval/refusal information based on the client information.

13. (Currently Amended) A method in a data processing system for managing the direct delivery of an item to a location associated with a receiver comprising:

receiving, at a delivery goods management apparatus, which includes at least a data storage containing information regarding a deliverer of goods and a recipient and can also be accessed both by the deliverer and the recipient, a request to confirm reception of delivery goods entered by a deliverer when a recipient of the delivery goods from the location is absent, wherein the request includes a message to confirm as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of the goods by the deliverer to the location;

extracting recipient information from thea storage unit of the delivery goods management apparatus, where the storage unit stores the recipient information corresponding to information related to the request to confirm reception of the delivery goods;

further storing information for a deliverer corresponding to delivery goods identification information in said storage unit and receiving the delivery goods identification information and reception approval/refusal information entered by said recipient; and

notifying said deliverer of the reception approval/refusal information based on the deliverer information, so that the deliverer delivers the goods to the location associated with the recipient when a result of the reception approval/refusal information indicates an approval of the delivery of the goods by the recipient.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of operating a data processing system, comprising:

receiving, at a delivery goods management apparatus, which includes at least a data storage containing information regarding a deliverer of goods and a recipient and can also be accessed both by the deliverer and the recipient, a request to confirm reception of delivery goods entered by a deliverer when a recipient of the delivery goods from the location is absent, wherein the request includes a message to confirm as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of the goods by the deliverer to the location;

extracting recipient information from thea storage unit of the delivery goods management apparatus, where the storage unit stores the recipient information corresponding to information related to the request to confirm reception of the delivery goods; and

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further storing information for a deliverer corresponding to delivery goods identification information in said storage unit-and receiving the delivery goods identification information and reception approval/refusal information entered by said recipient; and

notifying said deliverer of the reception approval/refusal information based on the deliverer information, so that the deliverer delivers the goods to the location associated with the recipient when a result of the reception approval/refusal information indicates an approval of the delivery of the goods by the recipient.

15. (Currently Amended) The delivery goods management apparatus according to claim 7, wherein said storage units-further stores information for a client corresponding to the delivery goods information, said unit which extracts the information entered by said recipient, further extracts the delivery goods information and client information relevant to the delivery goods identification information from said storage-unit; and said unit which notifies said recipient of the confirmation request information further notifies said client of the reception approval/refusal information based on the client information.

16. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

receiving, at an apparatus, which includes at least a data storage containing information regarding a deliverer of goods and a recipient and can also be accessed both by the deliverer and the recipient, when a-the recipient is unavailable at a delivery location associated with the recipient, a request from a deliverer as to whether the recipient approves or rejects delivery of goods to be delivered by the deliverer;

transmitting, from the apparatus, a notification to the recipient after receiving the request from the deliverer;

receiving, at the apparatus, a response from the recipient indicating an approval or refusal of the delivery of the goods; and

transmitting, from the apparatus to the deliverer, a notification of the response received from the recipient so that the goods are delivered to the delivering location associated with the recipient by the deliverer based on a result of the response.

17. (New) A method, comprising:

transmitting a request from a deliverer to a potential recipient who is not present at a location of a good to be delivered, the request requesting for transmission of an affirmative response that the potential recipient ordered the good to be delivered; and

delivering, by the deliverer, of the good for the potential recipient when the potential recipient is not present at the location if the potential recipient transmits the affirmative response in return to the request.